



ARC-OVER

Turlock Amateur Radio Club (T.A.R.C.)



W6BXN

www.w6bxn.org

147.030 + PL 100.0



February 2026

The next general club meeting is Tuesday February 10, 2026, at the Salvation Army 893 Lander Ave. Turlock, CA 95380. There will be a testing session at 6:00pm and the doors for the meeting will open a few minutes before 7:00pm.





From the desk of the ARC-Over editor: Lucian KF6NPG

Welcome to the February edition of the ARC-OVER. The new year is in full swing and I hope you are taking the time to participate in the new year's amateur radio activities. I took advantage and participated in the 2026 Winter Field and I had a blast. The bands were in good condition, I only made 38 contacts, but I think I got a contact on every available band. My far away contact was a station in Long Island New York, WA2DNI, not bad for my small-time station. If you did not participate this year, think about it for next year. It is good practice and a little less hectic than the summer ARRL Field Day. It is a good way to get your feet wet in the contest world.



I have some good news for those of you who have a GMRS license. The SARA club has set up a GMRS repeater at their club building on Mt. Oso. The repeater has



very good coverage and is beginning to get some use. The primary purpose is to provide communications for the community during times of emergency and for Stanislaus County CERT activities. When not needed for this, it is open for use by any person holding a GMRS license. The RX is 462.550 and TX 467.550. It is a positive offset with a CTCSS or Tone Squelch pl of 136.5 (pl on both receive and transmit). If you have a GMRS license, take some time and check it out. Remember you must have a

GMRS license to use. Your Ham radio license will not work. The great thing about having a GMRS license is that it covers your immediate family and no test is required. If you need a GMRS license go to the Universal Licensing System and use your FRN and password to log in. Apply for a new license (ZA GMRS). Fill out the 605-form, pay your \$35.00 fee, and you will receive your license via e mail in a few days.

Don W6DEJ talked about the upcoming Fox Hunt in March. I have included in the newsletter tips for working a Fox Hunt that Don passed out last year. Take some time to review and prepare for the hunt. I have also included a flyer for this year's Loomis Hamfest. It will take place on March 28th at the historic Loomis train depot.

There are a lot of exciting things going on at the ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio. Go to the ARRL website and log in to get an idea of what is happening at the League this year. Some of the exciting things are (courtesy of the ARRL web site):

2026 has been designated by the ARRL Board of Directors as the Year of the Club, recognizing that radio clubs are the backbone of ARRL. The growth and



development of amateur radio relies on our vibrant community of radio clubs. All ARRL Affiliated Clubs are invited to participate!

Please check back here ([Year of the Club](#)) as we post more information about the ARRL Year of the Club:

- Innovative programs to support club growth and bolster club activities
- Opportunities to celebrate and recognize clubs on the air
- Recognition and incentives for clubs that help increase ARRL membership
- Recognition for clubs celebrating significant milestones, including 100 years of ARRL affiliation...and more!

ARRL Joins America250 as a Supporting Partner for the Nation's 250th Anniversary

02/05/2026

Newington, CT — February 5, 2026 — ARRL The National Association for Amateur



Radio® announced today that it is a Supporting Partner of America250, joining the nationwide celebration of the 250th anniversary of our country in 2026. [America250](#) is the national, nonpartisan organization charged by Congress to lead the commemoration of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, a milestone that marks America's

Semiquincentennial. Through education, engagement, and service, America250 seeks to bring Americans together to reflect on the nation's history and renew commitment to the ideals that unite us.

As a Supporting Partner, ARRL will contribute to America250's mission by highlighting the historic and ongoing role of amateur radio in connecting people, supporting public service, and strengthening civic engagement across the United States. Since its founding in 1914, ARRL and its members have played a vital role in technical innovation, emergency communications, and volunteer service in communities.

"Amateur radio has been part of the American story since the earliest days of wireless communication," said ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR. "For more than a century, the Amateur Radio Service has advanced the nation's communications capabilities by fostering technical innovation, developing a pool of trained and skilled operators, strengthening emergency and public service communications, and promoting international goodwill. These enduring contributions reflect why amateur radio continues to serve the public interest as a uniquely resilient and volunteer-driven national resource."

And for San Joaquin Valley news click on the link right under your ARRL log in and that will take you to the Section Manager, Steve KK6JTB's, section newsletter. Join us on Facebook. The San Joaquin Valley Section has a facebook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/sjv.arrl>

If you have anything to submit to the ARC-OVER, please let me know at kf6npg@aol.com . For the latest information on amateur radio activities follow the club on discord, Facebook, club website, and read the ARC-OVER.



Arc-Over "Message from the President" Article – February 2026
No message from the president this month.

MINUTES - General Meeting

Turlock Amateur Radio Club

01/13/2026, 7:00p

Salvation Army Facility, 893 Lander Ave, Turlock

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance *meeting was called to order at 7:00pm*

2. Introductions

Welcome to the 2026 officers (new officers in bold below)!

President - Eric K7RKU

Vice President - Don W6DEJ

Treasurer - Kevin KO6HZC

Secretary - Dennis KO6KPD

Sergeant at Arms - Jerry KN6GJK

Member at Large - John N6JCS

Member at Large - Greg KN6ZGE

Trustee - Spencer KJ6ART

All new board members were introduced to the club

3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes *A motion was brought to forth to approve the previous meeting minutes and was seconded.*

4. Officer Reports

- President - Eric K7RKU
- TARC Equipment Lending Library - Yaesu FT-991A (checked out), Yaesu FT-891 (checked out), HF wire antennas (available), Baofeng HTs (available), **Don't be shy - let TARC help you get on the air!**
- TARC team building / club reputation building - We have plenty of stickers , but we are SOLD OUT OF T-SHIRTS! In the face of adversity, they said it couldn't be done. We couldn't sell 27 custom TARC t-shirts. But WE DID! Woo hoo!
- Vice President / Program Committee / Arc-Over - Don W6DEJ *discussed anyone who would like to sign up to give a presentation at an upcoming meeting. Sign up sheet was made available. A sign up sheet was made available for an up coming fox hunt challenge. Scheduling soon when weather permits. Possibly a week after the March club meeting. Discussed signing up if you would like to feature your ham shack for a Youtube video be featured in the club.*

- Treasurer - Kevin KO6HZC *The club financial report was given to the club for the month of Dec.*

Starting balance of \$7,121.99 Total income of \$945.00. Total expense of \$765.22 with a final club balance of \$7,301.77

- Trustee / Repeater Committee - Spencer KJ6ART *Reported of power outage at the repeater sight. A programing issue has been resolved. Also a switch was effected with the power outage and parts have been ordered for the repair.*

5. Other Reports

- Merced ARES - Dave KG6NUO ARES *meeting is scheduled for the 3rd wednesday of the month at the Merced air base.*

6. Standing Committees

Portable Operations / Special Events Committee *discussed a possible outing in the month of Feb.*

- Pending Scheduling - POTA, Fox Hunt *pending weather possible the week after the Feb/March meeting*

- Ready for some new talent! Welcome to our new Chairman - Greg KN6ZGE! Looking for committee members - low time commitment, fun activities, heroes of the club.

7. Old Business, *no old business was pending*

8. New Business

- [BEACON Exercise](#) - 04/30/2026, registration closes 04/21/2026 at noon [Beaconexercise.org](#) *looking for possible club volunteers. Check the website for a detailed explanation of positions for the exercise.*
- License Expirations Coming Up - KI6CDV (Expires 01/25/2026), KM6ARR (Expires 02/24/2026) • Friday Morning Net Control Signup *a sign up sheet was made available for club members who would like to be the volunteer host for the day. Net control instruction sheet/script is available on the club website*
- Results from Questionnaire - Brainstorming *went over results from the questionnaires that were emailed to club member for input on upcoming events, meetings, POTA, field days and club activities.*

9. Adjournment

Eric K7RKU, President

Submitted by Secretary Dennis KO6KPD 01/16/202

Turlock Amateur Radio Club
Income/Expense
January 2026

Beginning Bank Balance as of 01/01/2026

\$7,301.77

Income

Raffle proceeds	\$285.00
Membership Dues	\$390.00
Sticker sales	<u>#20.00</u>
Income total	\$695.00

Expenses

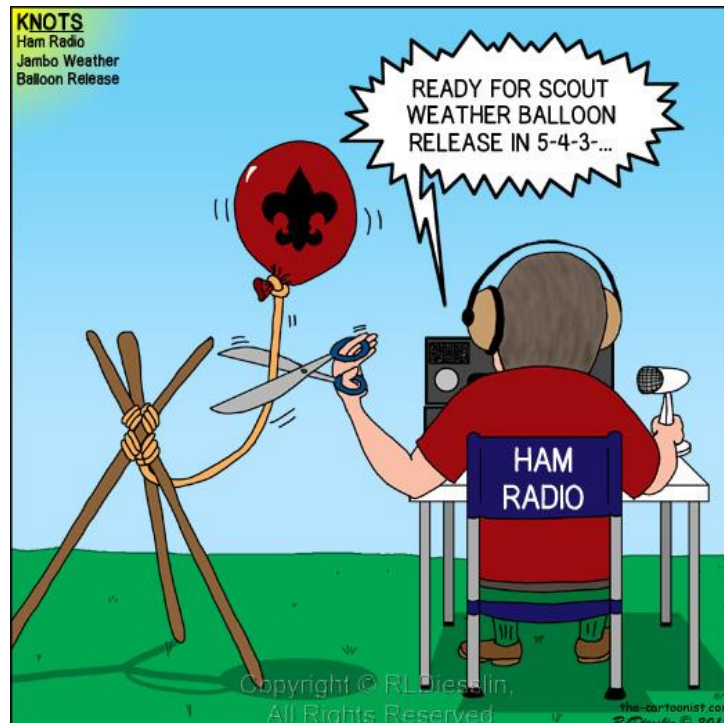
Utilities (PG&E)	<u>\$89.77</u>
Total Expenses	\$89.77

Ending Balance as of 01/31/2026

\$7,907.00

Prepared by Kevin Duffy (KO6HZC)

Turlock Discord Server





Amateur Radio Operators, or “hams,” have a long history of serving their communities when storms or other disasters damage critical communication infrastructure, such as cell phone towers and fiber optic networks. Amateur radio functions completely independent of the internet and phone systems, and a ham radio station can be set up almost anywhere in minutes. Amateurs can quickly raise a wire antenna in a tree or on a mast, connect it to a radio and power source, and communicate effectively with others.

The ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Service® ARES® (www.arrl.org/ares) consists of hams who have voluntarily registered their qualifications and equipment with their local ARES leadership for communications duty in the public service when disaster strikes. They use their training, skills, and equipment to prepare for and provide communications during emergencies When All Else Fails®. (Courtesy of the ARRL (Amateur Radio Relay League)).

If you are interested in emergency communications and serving the community, please consider joining Merced ARES. They have a weekly radio net on Mondays on the TARC repeater at 7:00 pm. **Dave KG6NUO has exciting news. Merced ARES meetings will resume in person meetings beginning with the January 21, 2026, meeting. The meetings will be held at Merced County OES located at the old Castle Air Force Base 3500 Apron Ave. Atwater, CA. He will send out further information via his Merced ARES members e-mail list.**

The Merced ARES meetings are held on the third Wednesday at 6:00 pm. If you are not on his e mail list, please email Dave to get on the list for the meetings at dave.anderson@arrl.net . For more information, please contact the Merced ARES Emergency Coordinator, Dave KG6NUO.



Fox Hunt Preparation

TARC is pleased to introduce our ham radio fox hunt (hidden transmitter hunt). All club members are invited to participate in the event. The first hunt will have a low level of difficulty. If successful, others may follow.



What to Bring to the Hunt

- 2-meter handheld radio (any brand, e.g., Baofeng, Yaesu, Kenwood)
- Directional antenna (Optional, see below for build instructions)
- Attenuator (Optional)
- Water, hat, sun protection, good walking shoes
- Optional: notebook, GPS, smartphone for map use



Helpful Resources



Fox Hunt! (Radio Direction Finding) *KB9VBR Antennas*

<https://youtu.be/bA9qz4eLz2w>

Build Your Own Tape Measure Yagi Antenna

<https://hamradioprep.com/how-to-build-a-tape-measure-yagi-antenna/>



Also:

How to Make an Incredible
DIY Antenna for Almost
Nothing - *The Modern Rogues*

(<https://youtu.be/1nHPbWPUYzk?si=NSxNPjeMFHo1Jd0>)

Hunt Information

- Transmitter: Low-power beacon on 2 meters with CW ID and tone
- Objective: Be the first to find the hidden transmitter using direction-finding techniques! Driving- Stop to take direction readings, plot bearings on a map.

Strategies

- Drive to the area with the strongest signal.
- RDF Equipped? Triangulate the signal for a more accurate location.
- Attenuate the signal. Use your offset or limiting equipment.
- Remove the HT antenna. Body block the signal when closer. Tune off frequency a few kHz at a time.
- When close, look for likely hiding places. Move on quietly if you spot the fox. Don't lead others to the location if possible.

Questions or Suggestions?

Contact: Don – W6DEJ

Email: w6dej2@gmail.com

Photos Courtesy Don W6DEJ
W6DEJ.com for additional photos
Club Meeting





UPCOMING EVENTS

The club will sponsor 5 amateur radio license test sessions in 2026.

February 10, 2026, April 14, 2026, June 9, 2026, August 11, 2026, and October 13, 2026.

February

Tuesday 10th. Club meeting will start at 7:00 pm. There is a ham license testing session planned at 6:00 pm. The doors will open a few minutes before 7:00 pm unless testing session ends earlier. Meeting place as usual at the Salvation Army 893 Lander Ave. Turlock, CA. Presentation TBA.

Wednesday 18th Merced ARES meeting 6:00 pm. The meetings will be held in person at Merced County OES at the old Castle Air Force Base 3500 Apron Ave. Atwater, CA. ARES members please look for an e-mail from Dave KG6NUO for further information. If you are not on his e mail list, please email him to get on the list for the meeting at dave.anderson@arrl.net .

March

Tuesday 10th. Club meeting will start at 7:00 pm and the doors will open at 6:30 pm. Meeting place as usual at the Salvation Army 893 Lander Ave. Turlock, CA. Presentation TBA.

Wednesday 18th Merced ARES meeting 6:00 pm. The meetings will be held in person at Merced County OES at the old Castle Air Force Base 3500 Apron Ave. Atwater, CA. ARES members please look for an e-mail from Dave KG6NUO for further information. If you are not on his e mail list, please email him to get on the list for the meeting at dave.anderson@arrl.net .

Saturday 28th Loomis Hamfest at 7:00 am. Historic Loomis Train Depot 5775 Horseshoe Bar Road Loomis, CA.

THE FIRST AND BIGGEST HAMSWAP OF THE YEAR
10 YEARS STRONG



LOOMIS
HAMFEST



JOIN THE SIERRA FOOTHILLS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB FOR HAMFEST 2026!

GRAB YOUR GEAR, GET YOUR WALLET, AND GET READY FOR A SUPER SWAP.

WE'LL HAVE COFFEE AND DONUTS, ELMER TOURS, A TEST TABLE,
PRIZES EVERY 15 MINUTES, AND SO MUCH MORE.

MARCH 28TH, 2026 @ 0700

**HISTORIC LOOMIS TRAIN DEPOT
5775 HORSESHOE BAR ROAD, LOOMIS, CA**

**SELLERS \$10
SETUP @ 0600**

WIN PRIZES!

**FREE ADMISSION
AND PARKING**



**JUST ANNOUNCED
WE'LL BE GIVING AWAY
A SHARK RF MIKE**



MORE PRIZES ANNOUNCED SOON!!

TARC System Nets

- TARC Tuesday Night Club Net - Tuesdays 7 PM, except for the second Tuesday (club meeting night)
- Bacon and Eggs Net - Weekdays 7 AM
- Merced ARES Net – Mondays 7 PM
- San Joaquin Valley Section ARES Net – Sundays 7:30 PM

2026 Dues

You can now join or renew your membership for 2026. Your dues help with paying for the rent and maintenance of the TARC repeater system and club events. If you have not already done so, please consider joining or renewing your club membership. Thanks to everyone who has renewed, joined, or donated to the club. **You can now pay your dues online at the club website.** You can still pay with cash or check, but the online option is now available. If paying with cash or check please include a [membership application](#) to help keep our information up to date. Thanks!

- Individual Membership: \$25
- Family Membership: \$35

Are you receiving TARC emails? If not [head over to W6BXN.org](http://W6BXN.org) and subscribe.

2026 Club Officers

To protect TARC members' personal information, we will no longer post the list of members on the club website. For all club inquiries, including membership status, please send an email to info@w6bxn.org.

President Eric K7RKU

Secretary Dennis KO6KPD

Sergeant at Arms Jerry KN6GJK

Member at Large Greg KN6ZGE

Vice President Don W6DEJ

Treasurer Kevin KO6HZC

Member at Large John N6JCS

Club Trustee Spencer KJ6ART

